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Basic Sanitation in Fortaleza, worse than Rio



You've probably heard about the poor state of Rio de Janeiro's sanitation because of its impact on water quality in the Guanabara Bay for the Olympic rowing in 2016. For a 'world class' city, basic sanitation in Rio is way behind, serving only 70% of the population.

In Fortaleza, the figure is worse with only 60% of service and it's actually projected to decline further over the next few years because of rapid population growth.

No-where is this more evident than in the favelas where the toxic smells of untreated waste, extreme heat and rotting rubbish are unrelenting.



One of the most heart-breaking consequences of these conditions are the legions and infections that we see so often on the feet of children at The University of Life. There are over 25 different parasitic, bacterial and viral infections that can afflict children exposed to untreated sewage

and unclean water. In the favelas of north-east Brazil infection rates are up to 50%.

UNiViDA is a Registered Charity No. 1136743

55 High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5HD

0117 956 8675

office@univida.org

www.univida.org

Despite the smart t-shirts and freshly washed hair, you only need to look down at the feet of the children at The University of Life to see nature of the environment in which they live.

How Does UNiViDA Help ?

Providing a safe, clean environment with clean drinking is a priority. With basic first aid supplies, The University of Life can help to treat children with open sores or infections and make sure that parents are alerted when antibiotics are required. We are also teaching students about their rights to basic sanitation as well as preventative health care.

It's our desire to reach out to our community and where possible advocate on their behalf to improve conditions in the streets and alleyways. We want to see safe open spaces for children to live and play, away from contaminated water.

We know that the issues of planning control and the culture of invading land is a huge issue in Brazil but we do believe that we can help to raise a generation of young people who are informed and determined to improve the conditions of their community one step at a time.



*Your support goes directly
to the needs of children
living in these conditions.*

*Thank you for being a
Dreambuilder*



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For more pictures visit and like our **Facebook Page** Univida

Thank You!

Adriana's Story

Adriana is 12 years old but has been at The University of Life for just a couple of months.

However, Adriana's connection with the project is not new.



Like many of her friends in the favela, Adriana has grown up with a new problem to face each morning. At the age of 7, Adriana used to come to The University of Life but almost always arrived, tired, sick or distracted. Some days she just didn't have the energy to make it.

Unfortunately, despite the emotional support and daily nutrition we offered, she was unable to stay healthy enough to come. Not wanting to lose her, we reached out to her family but were unable to convince them to help Adriana attend the project.

Recently a friend of Adriana who was herself a new student at the project, invited her to enrol again. Adriana admitted that she had dearly missed The University Of Life but had been looking after her younger siblings and helping her mother in the house.

Thankfully, Adriana has now returned and despite the interruption in her education and her timidity, she's steadily making progress each day. She wants to make the most of all the opportunities available to her particularly in the area of dance. She has been particularly inspired by Micael, our alumnus sports teacher, and when she grows up she wants to be a PE teacher.

Computer Needed In Bristol

UNiViDA is in need of a new computer for the office in Bristol. A laptop would be ideal. If you have a connection with a school or business that might be upgrading or have a machine you could donate, please contact the office. 0117 956 8675 or email anne.salway@univida.org.

Recent Photos



Photos from a recent project where students have been studying different professions.

These included...

- The Beauty Industry
- Education
- Healthcare
- Mechanics
- Hospitality



Other Needs

Please don't forget our educational campaign this year. Visit our website to download the factsheets.

If you are a Dreambuilder, you should receive them in the post this month with your Thank You Letter.



DANCE



MEDIA